

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/991,388

Examiner

Ming-Hun Liu

Applicant(s)

HONG, CUC

Art Unit

2675

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appeal Brief 8/26/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Vaughn North on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows: In independent claims 1 and 8 after "viewing mode", "wherein images from the digital memory storage devices are displayed."

Claim 1 (examiner's amendment): A container configured to electronically display images and simulate a photo album storage device, comprising:

a portable storage housing having a bottom and a plurality of upwardly extending sides, the upwardly extending sides defining at least one storage cavity portion within the storage housing, the at least one storage cavity portion being configured to concurrently store a plurality of removable digital memory storage devices; a display cover coupled to the storage housing, the cover including a visual display device and being configured for open and closed positions to directly cover the storage cavity portion of the storage housing when in a closed, storage mode and to directly expose the storage cavity and allow access to the plurality of removable digital memory storage devices and directly expose the visual display device at a viewing position when in an open, viewing mode, wherein images from the digital memory storage devices are

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displayed; and an electronic processing device, separate from the storage cavity portion and coupled to the storage housing and the visual display device, the processing device being configured to accept at least one of the plurality of removable memory storage devices and to process and display digital image data contained on the storage device.

Claim 8 (examiner's amendment): A container configured to electronically display images and simulate a photo album storage device, comprising:

a portable storage housing having a bottom and a plurality of upwardly extending sides, the upwardly extending sides defining at least one storage cavity portion within the storage housing, a plurality of storage compartments contained within the storage cavity portion, the storage compartments being configured to concurrently store a plurality of removable digital memory storage devices; a display cover coupled to the storage housing, the display cover including a visual display device for displaying digital images and being configured for open and closed positions to directly cover the storage cavity portion of the storage housing when in a closed, storage mode and to directly expose the storage cavity and allow access to the plurality of removable digital memory storage devices and directly expose the visual display device at a viewing position when in an open, viewing mode, wherein images from the digital memory storage devices are displayed; a electronic processing device, coupled to the storage housing and the visual display device, the processing device being configured to accept at least one of the plurality of removable memory storage devices and to process and display digital image data stored on the memory storage devices; a navigation data entry interface and navigation control circuitry, each operatively coupled to the processing device to enable an operator to manipulate

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the digital images stored on the at least one removable memory storage device contained in the processing device.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner agrees with the arguments outlined by the applicant as presented in the appeal brief. To better differentiate the claimed invention from the cited references, the examiner and the applicant agreed to further limit the claim by adding the limitation of wherein images from the digital memory storage devices are displayed to the definition of viewing mode.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ming-Hun Liu whose telephone number is (571)272-7770. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ming-Hun Liu

  
**SUMATI LEFKOWITZ**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**